

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CU-04 BIB-01 HA-05 CIAE-00
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01
PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-12 INRE-00
SSO-00 NSCE-00 OES-07 DOE-11 SOE-02 /108 W
-----036464 160703Z /23

O R 160610Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5204

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

USIA WASHDC

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BELGRADE 1263

FOR EUR/RPM AND EUR/SOV FROM USDEL CSCE

GENEVA FOR USDEL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, OCON

SUBJECT: BELGRADE CSCE -- DAILY HIGHLIGHTS, FEBRUARY 15

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SUMMARY: DAY'S MAJOR EVENT, FRENCH DECISION TO GO IT ALONE
AND FILE DRAFT CONCLUDING DOCUMENT FEBRUARY 16 THAT ON
BALANCE IS WEAKER THAN NNA PAPER AND CONSEQUENT DERAILING
OF EFFORT TO DEVELOP COMMON ALLIED DOCUMENT, IS REPORTED SEPTELS.
EC-9 AND NATO CAUCUSES WILL BE MEETING TODAY AND
TOMORROW TO DETERMINE HOW MUCH ALLIED UNITY CAN

BE PRESERVED. OTHER CONFERENCE DEVELOPMENTS WERE ALSO LESS THAN ENCOURAGING. DG-6 IN MORNING TURNED INTO ACRIMONIOUS EAST-WEST EXCHANGE OVER WHICH SIDE IS OBSTRUCTIONIST. APPARENTLY TO GIVE POINT TO THEIR INSISTENCE THAT THEY WILL NOT MAKE SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS AND THAT DRAFTING GROUPS MUST NOW REGISTER FEW TEXTS ON WHICH THERE IS AGREEMENT, SOVIETS ANNOUNCED IN AFTERNOON THAT THEY WOULD PARTICIPATE IN NO MORE INFORMAL CONTACT GROUP SESSIONS ON BASKET THREE. END SUMMARY.

1. DG6 -- SOVIETS AGAIN PRESSED HARD TO REGISTER BITS AND PIECES OF AGREED TEXT AND WERE REBUFFED BY ALLIES WHO INSISTED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY FIRST TO NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY ON MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE TEXTS EITHER IN FORMAL DRAFTING GROUP OR IN INFORMAL CONTACT GROUPS. SOVIETS ACCUSED WEST OF TRYING TO SABOTAGE CONFERENCE. DESPITE EFFORTS OF HOLY SEE CHAIRMAN AND ROMANIAN AND YUGOSLAV REPS WHO URGED DELS TO ESCHEW POLEMICS AND WORK CONSCIENTIOUSLY ON NEUTRAL/NON-ALIGNED (NNA) AND OTHER TEXTS, ATMOSPHERE WAS FAIRLY ACRIMONIOUS.

2. BASKET TWO -- CONTACT GROUP SET ASIDE DISCUSSION OF ENERGY, INCLUDING A NEW NNA TEXT, AND MOVED ON TO A LARGELY RITUALISTIC AND INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. SEPAKING FOR WEST, DANISH REP EXPLICITLY SAID THAT ALTHOUGH RESOLUTION OF ENERGY

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QUESTION WAS POSSIBLE, TIME WAS INOPPORTUNE FOR SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. DISCUSSION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BROKE DOWN DURING INFORMAL COFFEE-BREAL CONSULTATIONS WHEN, CITING SHCHARANSKY AND SAKHAROV "PROBLEMS", SOVIET REP SAID THAT SOVIETS COULD ACCEPT NO TEXT WHICH MENTIONED "DIRECT CONTACTS" BETWEEN SCIENTISTS.

3. BASKET THREE -- SOVIETS ANNOUNCED REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY FURTHER MEETINGS OF THIS CONTACT GROUP. PRIOR TO SOVIET INTERCESSION, GROUP HAD COMPLETED DISCUSSION OF CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL SECTIONS OF NNA PAPER WITH NO AGREEMENT ON ANY SUBSTANTIVE LANGUAGE. EASTERN REPS PERSISTED IN FAMILIAR TACTIC OF DESCRIBING LANGUAGE EITHER AS ACCEPTABLE OR UNACCEPTABLE WITH LITTLE MEANINGFUL EFFORT AT NEGOTIATION. AMONG "UNACCEPTABLE" TEXTS WAS NNA SENTENCE ON LIMITED OPENING OF ARCHIVES, WHICH SOVIETS SAID MIGHT BE MISUSED FOR PROPAGANDISTIC PURPOSES.

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SSO-00 NSCE-00 DOE-11 SOE-02 OES-07 /108 W
-----036596 160702Z /23

O R 160610Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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4. AT FIRST MENTION BY CHAIRMAN OF NEXT MEETING TO
CONTINUE DRAFTING EFFORTS, SOVIET AMBASSADOR VORONTSOV,
OBVIOUSLY PRESENT FOR THIS PURPOSE, ASKED FOR FLOOR.
AFTER THANKING NNAS FOR THEIR EFFORTS, HE STATED THAT NO
CONSENSUS HAD BEEN REACHED ALMOST ALL OF 27 PROPOSALS
IN NNA PAPER BECAUSE THAT PAPER LACKED "COMPROMISE CHARACTER."
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HE SAID INFORMAL CONTACT GROUP HAD THUS FAILED, AND WORK
SHOULD BE TRANSFERED TO SINGLE EXISTING FORMAL DRAFTING
GROUP WHICH, AS MORNING'S MEETING HAD SHOWN, WAS
"UNEMPLOYED." THIS GROUP SHOULD TAKE UP GDR'S BASKET

THREE TEXT WHICH, HE SAID, MIGHT SERVE AS BASIS FOR COMPROMISE. VORONTSOV ADDED THT CONTINUATION OF INFORMAL GROUP SEEMED TO INSPIRE "ILLUSIONS" IN SOME DELEGATIONS OF "GREAT FURTHER CONCESSIONS" BY SOVIETS. SUCH ILLUSIONS HINDERED DRAFTING, WHICH COULD BEST BE PURSUED IN FORMAL BODY.

5. WITH EXCEPTION OF POLES AND ROMANIANS, OTHER WARSAW PACT DELS ECHOED SOVIET INTERVENTION. WESTERN DELS, INCLUDING U.S., DEEPLY REGRETTED EASTERN POSITION AND SAID IT WOULD SERIOUSLY HINDER DRAFTING . U.S. REP STATED THAT DECISION SERIOUSLY HURTS CHANCE OF GETTING GOOD CONCLUDING DOCUMENT AND POINTED OUT THAT SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE IS NOT TO BE FOUND IN ANY SINGLE PAPER AND REQUIRES GOOD FAITH EFFORT TO NEGOTIATE. SEVERAL NNAS ALSO DEPLORED SOVIET DECISION AND EMPHASIZED THAT THEY DO NOT CONSIDER THEIR PAPER TO BE DEAD. MEETING NEVERTHELESS ADJOURNED IN SOMBER MOOD. AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR LATER TOLD U.S. REP THAT SOVIETS HAD ALSO REFUSED TO MEET IN SMALLER BASKET THREE CONTACT GROUP WHICH HAD PLANNED TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE COMPROMISES BETWEEN GDR, HUNGARIAN, AND NNA TEXTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BELGRA01263
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780071-0205
Format: TEL
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780249/aaaabphi.tel
Line Count: 193
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3578187
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELGRADE CSCE -- DAILY HIGHLIGHTS, FEBRUARY 15 CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL
TAGS: OCON, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2d39dbd5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014